



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

B
4358
48

Emerson-Report on Phonotypy - 1847.



B 4358.48



Harvard College Library

FROM

The Estate of Georgina Dowell

*J. C. Lowell Esq.,
with the author's respects.*

A

REPORT

UPON

PHONOTYPY.

FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1847.

Handwritten text, possibly a title or description, partially obscured by a dark vertical strip on the left.

B4358.48



From the Estate of
Miss Georgina Smith

R E P O R T .

At a regular meeting of the Academy, held on the evening of August 12th, 1846, Mr. Emerson, in behalf of a committee appointed at a former meeting, made the following report upon the subject of *Phonotypy*.

Few subjects can present stronger claims to the attention of all persons interested in the advancement and perfection of the arts of writing and printing, than Phonotypy and Phonography.* Phonotypy has for its object a reform in the existing modes of representing language by printed types. Phonography has the higher object of bringing into use a mode of representing sounds by written characters, which shall be more scientific, more exact, more easily acquired, and four or five times more rapid, than any now in general use.

The necessity of a reform in the received mode of representing the sounds of our language has occurred to very many persons,† at different times, within the last two or three hundred years. Indeed, this necessity must have been apparent to every philosophical observer who has attentively considered the extreme inadequacy of the small and very imperfect Phœnician alphabet, however modified by Greek and Roman usage, when adopted to express the sounds of a language derived from so many sources, and having so broad a compass and so

* Phonotypy is the art of printing, Phonography of writing, according to sound.

† Sir John Cheke, appointed professor of Greek at Cambridge by Henry the Eighth, in 1540, and knighted by Edward the Sixth, in 1551, made some attempts to improve the orthography of the language. One of his devices was the one so often proposed, of expressing long vowel-sounds by double vowels. His friend and associate in the reform of the pronunciation of Greek, Sir Thomas Smith, also proposed a reform in the orthography of English. Both these were among the most learned men of their times. Many others have appeared, from Mulcaster, in 1582, to Rich, of Troy, New Hampshire, in 1844.

great a variety of sounds, as the English.* The most distinguished of those who have gone so far as to propose a reform are Bishop Wilkins, Sir William Jones, and Dr. Franklin; all of them eminently conspicuous for their strong common sense, and two of them for practical, every-day wisdom. Bishop Wilkins made a most elaborate analysis of the sounds of spoken language, and proposed two very distinct modes of representing them. His essay was received by the Royal Society and ordered to be printed, on the 13th of April, 1668. This analysis was unfortunately proposed as a part of *An Essay towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language*, and therefore did not attract all the attention to which it was entitled.†

Dr. Franklin did not apparently go so fully into the subject as Bishop Wilkins; fully enough, however, to show his conviction of the importance and feasibility of the reform. He proposed eight vowels, including *h*, and eighteen consonants. He invented a character for *sh*, one, *ŋ*, for *ng*, a modification of *a* for *au*, and separate characters for *th* whispered and *th* vocal. He recognized the natural division of consonants by pairs; but had not distinct signs for the long vowels, but expressed them by the short vowels doubled. He omitted *c*, *j*, *q*, *w*, *x*, and *y*; considering *j* as compounded of *d* and *sh*, *ch* as compounded of *t* and *sh*, and *zh* as compounded of *z* and *sh*. He evidently left the work incomplete.

Sir William Jones, in a dissertation published more than fifty years ago, and prepared with that thoroughness of research for which

* The English language must be made up of the languages of the Celts, who occupied the island before the inroads of the Romans, and who have left dialects of their tongue among the Welsh, Cornish, Irish, and Gaelic; of the Latins of the times of the emperors; of the Danish and Norwegian invaders, many of whom made permanent settlements and spoke Scandinavian dialects; of the Saxon and Danish or Angle invaders of a later age, who formed the Saxon octarchy, speaking German languages; of the Normans of the Conquest, speaking the old French; of the modern French; of classical Latin, introduced with literature by learned men; of Greek, introduced in the same way, as the language of science; of Italian, as the language of the arts; and of words from various other sources.

† Bishop Wilkins recognizes the binary division of consonants, and applies it to all the consonant-sounds, making twenty-six consonants, six letters of a middle nature, and five vowels, *e*, *a*, *d*, *o*, *u*. In his arrangement he begins with sounds formed in the throat, or "inmost palate," and comes out to those formed by the lips. He speaks of possible gutturals and lip-sounds which do not occur in any language, and are not therefore to be provided with a symbol.

The following is his arrangement of the letters, which is here presented as

to be represented by those already existing, by the somewhat profuse use of compounds and diacritical marks.*

The necessity of a reform is very apparent from an examination of our present alphabet, as used to express the sounds of our language.

I. Our alphabet is inadequate; there being thirty-eight or forty sounds, and several combinations of sounds, to be expressed, and only twenty-six characters.

II. It is redundant; three of these twenty-six, namely, *k*, *q*, and *x*, standing for sounds which are represented by other letters; and *q* being by itself without significance.

III. It is uncertain, contradictory, and false; each of the vowel-signs representing several sounds,† namely:—

a, not less than	9;
e, “ “	7;
i, itself a diphthong,	5;
o, not less than	9;
u, also a diphthong,	8;
y, not less than	5;

and each of these sounds being represented by other letters or combinations of letters, the first sound of

a, by 19 different combinations of letters.

e, by 21	“	“
i, by 17	“	“
o, by 16	“	“
u, by 17	“	“
y, by 4	“	“ ‡

* See his *Dissertation on the Orthography of Asiatic Words in Roman Letters*, in the first volume of his works, edited by Lord Teignmouth, 1st ed., p. 175.

† The sound of *a* is different in each two of the following words: imaging, mating, many, paring, father, fat, fall, want, dollar; of *e*, in the following: he, pretty, met, clerk, rendezvous, burden, blame; of *i*, in admiration, stir, sin, bind, business; of *o*, in women, nor, hop, work, sow, go, do, woman, compter; of *u*, in busy, bury, cur, but, unruly, pull, usage, persuade; of *y*, in pity, physic, myrrh, fly, yard.—See Ellis's *Plea for Phonotypy*, p. 8.

‡ As in the following words: of *a*, by *a* in mating, *a-e* in mate, *a-ue* in plague, *ai* in pain, *aigh* in straight, *ao* in gaol, *au* in gauging, *au-e* in gauge, *ay* in pray, *aye* in prayed, *ea* in great, *ei* in veil, *eig* in reign, *eigh* in weigh, *eighe* in weighed, *ey* in they, *eye* in conveyed, *eyo* in eyot, *ez* in rendezvous; of *e*, by *æ* in Cæsar, *e* in be, *e-e* in complete, *ea* in each, *ea-e* in leave, *ee* in feet, *eg* in impregn, *ei* in conceit, *ei-e* in conceive, *eo* in people, *ey* in key, *eye* in keyed, *i* in albino, *i-e* in magazine, *ia* in parliament, *ie* in grief, *ie-e* in grieve, *æ* in status, *way* in

There are fourteen simple vowel-sounds,* and four diphthongs, *i*, *oi*, *ou*, *u*; in all eighteen, to be represented; and there are only six vowel-signs to represent them. They are distributed without any apparent order, or rather in defiance of all order, method, or principle.

The representatives of the consonant-sounds are not so extravagant; there being only twenty-two or twenty-four consonant-sounds to be represented, and twenty, or rather seventeen, letters to represent them. The representation of these is, however, sufficiently fantastic; two of the perfectly simple consonants, *c* and *t*, being represented in ten different modes each.† On the whole, the thirty-six simple, and six or seven compound sounds, for which it is desirable to have characters, are represented in our language by three hundred and sixty-seven equivalents, an average of more than eight and one half to each sound, amongst which the inexperienced writer has to choose; — and *not a single sound of the English tongue has one uniform representative.*

The case is somewhat better for the reader. There are about two hundred letters or equivalents for letters in use, to represent the thirty-seven sounds of our language. Some of these have each a single value; but many of them have a considerable number. Among those of most common occurrence are the combinations *ei*, *eo*, *ie*, and *ough*, which have respectively seven, nine, eleven, and nine values.‡

quay, *ui* in mosquito, *y* in carry; of *i*, by *ais-e* in *aisle*, *ei* in neither, as often pronounced, *igh* in height, *ey* in eying, *eye* in eye, *i* in bind, *i-e* in mine, *ic* in indict, *ie* in lie, *ig* in sign, *igh* in high, *is-e* in isle, *ui* in beguiling, *ui-e* in beguile, *uy* in buy, *y* in fly, *ye* in dye; of *o*, by *au* in hauteur, *eau* in beau, *eo* in yeoman, *ew* in sew, *o* in go, *o-e* in cove, *oa* in coal, *oe* in doe, *oh* in oh! *ol* in yolk, *oo* in brooch, *ou* in soul, *ough* in thought, *ow* in know, *owe* in owe, *wo* in sword; of *u*, by *eau* in beauty, *eo* in feed, *eu* in feud, *ew* in few, *eue* in ewe, *hu* in humor, *ieu* in lieu, *iew* in view, *iewe* in viewed, *u* in usage, *u-e* in use, *ue* in ague, *ug* in impugn, *ugh* in Hugh, *ui* in suit, *yew* in yew, *you* in you; of *y*, by *e* in courteous, *i* in onion, *j* in hallelujah, *y* in yard. — See Ellis's *Plea*, pp. 5-8.

* Namely: *i* (ee), as in feet; *i*, as in it; *s* (a), as in mate; *e*, as in met; *æ*, as in mare; *ɑ*, as in Sam; *a*, as in psalm; *o*, as in caught; *o*, as in cot; *u*, as in cur; *u*, as in curry; *o*, as in bone; *u*, as in fool; and *u*, as in full.

† *C* in can, chasm, ache, back, lough, kill, walk, quack, quay, exception; *t* in debt, indict, sucked, sought, phthisical, ptarmigan, toe, Thomas, hatter, mezzotint. — Ellis, p. 7.

‡ The sounds of *ei* are different in every two of the words conceit, forfeit, veil, heifer, their, Leipsig, reimburse; of *eo*, in people, leopard, dungeon, yeoman, galleon, feud, Macleod, aureole, theology; of *ie*, in grief, pitied, friend, soldier, lie, mediæval, conscientious, piety, crier, species, courier; of *ough*, in sought, though, through, plough, cough, hough, trough, hiccough, and tough.

The two hundred effective letters have only about five hundred and fifty values, an average of two and one half each. So that to guess what value to give to each letter when written is easier than to divine what symbols to choose to represent a sound uttered, in the proportion of two and one half to eight and one half, or of twenty-five to eighty-five.

Of the fifty thousand words of our language which have been examined, not more than fifty, or one in a thousand, are pronounced as they are spelt, that is, if we take the first sound or name-sound of each letter as indicating its power. Hence the spelling of a word is no infallible guide to its pronunciation; and there is absolutely no way of indicating, by the alphabet now in use, what the pronunciation of a word should be.

From the very anomalous and irregular nature of our written language follows the extreme difficulty of learning to read, it taking children not less than fifteen times as long as if each sound had one sign, and each sign one invariable sound. The difficulty is not simply what it would be if they had two hundred characters to learn. It is far greater. In regard to many of the letters and combinations, a child can never learn the sound. He can only learn that the sound is to be ascertained by authority, whenever the letter occurs. Take, for example, the first letter of the alphabet as occurring in the following sentence.

"¹Many, ²comparing ³this ⁴man with his ⁵father, ⁶fall into the ⁷mistake that he wants little of being an image of him."

Here are nine different sounds of the *a*; and a child who had mastered them would be none the better prepared to give the sounds of *a* in any other word which should occur. He could at best guess that it had one of these nine sounds, and proceed to try them in succession, but each of the nine guesses would be wrong if the word were *bread* or *heaven*, or any other in which *a* is silent. Or take the letter *e* in the following sentence:—

"¹Let ²her ³leave ⁴her ⁵burden ⁶at the ⁷rendezvous, and ⁸show ⁹the ¹⁰clerk her ¹¹pretty ¹²tame ¹³mouse."

Here the letter has eight or nine different sounds or powers, and the effect of learning it would be only to confuse the mind in reference to the sound of *e* in every word not contained in this sentence.

Take one of the combinations of two letters, *ai*, for instance, in this sentence:—"Captain Paine said he had a pair of plaid." After learn-

ing the five sounds here given, if the learner should read in Scott an account of a feast at a Saxon's table, he would have to guess five times at the pronunciation of *dais*, and would each time be wrong.

The written language is continually misleading thus, and it may be safely said that the sound of a word is learnt, not through the aid of the vowels, but in spite of them. Our language is full of rules, and still more of exceptions. A true alphabet would require no rules, and it would admit of no exceptions. It would always speak for itself. In our present alphabet, every letter oftentimes misleads us, and every letter is sometimes lost. "It is really deplorable," as Sir William Jones, speaking of our alphabet, says, "that our first step from total ignorance should be into gross inaccuracy, and that we should begin our education in English with learning to read the five vowels, two of which, as we are taught to pronounce them, are clearly diphthongs."— *Works*, 1st ed., Vol. I., p. 183.

The truth is, that there is such an absence of rule, principle, and analogy in our language, as now written, that it is not to be wondered at that so few learn to read well, and that *nobody learns to spell*.* "Such is the state of our language," says Sheridan, a man certainly not prejudiced against his native tongue, "that the darkest hieroglyphics, or most difficult ciphers that the art of man has hitherto invented, were not better calculated to conceal the sentiments of those that used them from all that had not a key, than the state of our spelling is to conceal the true pronunciation of words from all except a few well educated natives." Such are the difficulties of our language, that with most foreigners beyond the period of early youth the acquisition of a tolerably correct pronunciation is quite impossible; and, in regard to proper names, no person, whether native or foreigner, who has not heard them, can be sure of their pronunciation.†

The importance of the reform is not less apparent than its necessity. Our language is one of the simplest, richest, and most compre-

* Men who have most to do with the press, and who are therefore most likely to know how to spell, have to confess that they wear out a dictionary in looking for the spelling of words. Can a man be found who never doubts about the spelling of a word?

† Take the instance of the new name, Cochituate, proposed for Long Pond. No person, on reading it, can be sure whether the *o* in the first syllable is long or short, whether *ch* in the second is sounded like *k*, like *sh*, or like *tch*, whether *u* is *u* or *oo*, and whether *ate* sounds long or short *a*, or short *i*, or short *e*; and there is a doubt about the accent.

hensive and expressive of languages, and ought to be one of the easiest of acquisition. Those who speak it belong to the most energetic of all the races, and are everywhere, by might, or craft, or commercial enterprise, or philanthropic action, rapidly extending the area over which it is to be spoken. It is the language of liberty, of poetry, of inventions. It should be made accessible to all. Rapp, a person qualified to judge and to pronounce in the matter of languages, says : — “ Although the French is become the common language, in a diplomatic and social sense, it has never acquired a firm footing in extensive regions out of Europe. The English, on the contrary, may pass for the universal tongue out of Europe ; and by its bold fusion and consequent decomposition of the forms of its Gothic and Roman elements, this idiom has acquired an incomparable fluency, and appears especially destined by nature, more than any one of the living, to undertake that part. Were not the impediment of a bizarre, antiquated orthography in the way, the universality of this language would be still more apparent ; and it may, perhaps, be said to be fortunate for us other Europeans, that the Englishman has not made the discovery.” *

The reform proposed by the author or authors of Phonotypy is simply the laying down and carrying out this most philosophical principle, — that each sound of the language should be represented by one and only one sign, and that each sign should constantly represent one sound. This principle is obviously the one on which every alphabet should be formed, and it is therefore, as the basis of the reform, a principle entirely satisfactory to the mind.

In the analysis of the sounds of the language, aid has been sought and obtained from all accessible sources ; from Wilkins, Sir William Jones, Dr. Franklin, Rapp, and especially Ellis ; from the alphabets of other languages ; from the structure of the organs of articulation, and from the construction of those ingenious philosophical instruments which have been contrived to imitate the sounds of language. Professor Wheatstone, taking advantage of all which has been done by Kratzenstein, Kempelen, and Professor Willis, contrived a simple tube, fitted with a reed and blown by means of bellows, which, of a certain length, gave the vowel I (ee) ; of another definite length, the vowel E (a) ; of another, the vowel A (ah) ; of another, O ; and of another, indefinite, U (oo) ; and

* K. M. Rapp, *Physiologie der Sprache*, as quoted by a writer in the *Phonotypic Journal*, Vol. III., p. 249.

being gradually drawn out while blown, gave the series I, E, A, O, U, and on being farther drawn out, repeated these sounds in the reverse order, then, successively, with different lengths, the same series direct, and again reversed. This experiment settles the order of the vowel-sounds, which had also been already determined by the utterance of a continuous stream of vocal sound, with the parts of the mouth gradually changing their position. It does not determine at which end of the series the vocal sounds should be considered as beginning, which has been settled on other grounds. The *number* of vowel-sounds has been determined by a careful analysis of the spoken language. There seem to be fourteen well settled vowel-sounds in authorized use in the language.* Several others are sometimes heard; as, for example, the sound of *ö* in most, among ourselves. Four diphthongs, *i, oi, ou, and u*, from their frequent occurrence in the language, have symbols assigned them.

The natural order of the consonant-sounds is determined by observing the organs of articulation employed in forming or modifying them, and the order settled upon by Mr. Pitman is that of labials, dentals, palatals, gutturals, nasals, beginning with those formed by the lips and going back to those formed by aid of the teeth, the palate, and the nose. The reverse of this order might have been taken; and has been taken by Bishop Wilkins and Dr. Franklin.

What particular consonant-sounds are found in the language is determined, as in the case of vowels, by an analysis of the language itself. They are settled at twenty-four, including those of an ambiguous nature, represented by *w, y, and h*, and called coalescents, and the breathing represented by *h*. After exhausting the letters of the present alphabet, excluding *k, q, and x*, it became necessary to adopt nineteen new letter-signs for the unrepresented or misrepresented sounds. These

* Eight are long, as 1. *ee* in keep, 2. *a* in make, 3. *a* in mare, 4. *a* in mark, 5. *au* in caught, 6. *u* in burn, 7. *o* in pole, and 8. *oo* in fool; and six short, namely, 9. *i* as in pin, 10. *e* in met, 11. *a* in sat, 12. *o* in top, 13. *u* in cup, and 14. *oo* in foot. Of the short, only two correspond precisely to long sounds, namely, 11 to 3, and 12 to 5. The order in the phonic scale would seem to be nearly

1
2 9
3 10
4 — 11
5 — 12
6
7 13
8 14
9.

have been chosen with great care, and after very numerous experiments. The present form of the phonetic alphabet being as high as the seventeenth of those which have been successively proposed.

The proposed alphabet is the following : —

CONSONANTS.

Type.	Example of Sound.	Type.	Example of Sound.	Type.	Example of Sound.
P p	<i>pay</i>	T t	<i>thigh</i>	G g	<i>chew</i>
B b	<i>bay</i>	D d	<i>thy</i>	J j	<i>Jew</i>
F f	<i>few</i>	S s	<i>seal</i>	X x	<i>mesh</i>
V v	<i>vieu</i>	Z z	<i>zeal</i>	Ź ź	<i>measure</i>
M m	<i>sum</i>	L l	<i>bail</i>	C c	<i>call</i>
W w	<i>way</i>	R r	<i>bare</i>	G g	<i>gall</i>
T t	<i>toe</i>	N n	<i>sun</i>	Ū ū	<i>sung</i>
D d	<i>doe</i>	Y y	<i>yea</i>	H h	<i>hay</i>

VOWELS.

Ĭ ĭ	<i>feet</i>	Ā ā	<i>Sam</i>	Ō ō	<i>bone</i>
Ī ī	<i>fit</i>	Ǽ ǽ	<i>psalm</i>	U u	<i>hut</i>
Ē ē	<i>mate</i>	Œ œ	<i>caught</i>	W w	<i>fool</i>
Ė ė	<i>met</i>	O o	<i>cot</i>	Ū ū	<i>full</i>
Æ æ	<i>mare</i>	Ū ū	<i>heard</i>	Ū ū	<i>news</i>

COMPOUND VOWELS.

Ī ī	<i>high</i>	Φ φ	<i>hoy</i>	Ŷ ŷ	<i>how</i>
-----	-------------	-----	------------	-----	------------

Some objections which are made to the project of reform ought to be considered.

1. It is feared by many that if the new mode of printing should prevail, all the libraries now in existence will become useless. This fear is entirely groundless. When a knowledge of the language, or facility in reading, is once acquired through phonotypy, it will be perfectly easy to read books printed in the common type; far more easy than it is for us to read old black-letter English, or the English of the times of Chaucer. It will probably take less time, — I have no doubt myself that it will take much less time, — to read phonotypically first and heterotypically afterwards, than to learn to read by the common mode alone; inasmuch as, when one has learnt the phonotypic alphabet, he may learn to read of himself without farther assistance, the letters giving necessarily the true sounds of the words, and, the knowledge of the words of the language once acquired, one may, afterwards, soon read them with ease, however disguised by a barbarous heterography.

2. It is objected that it will, if adopted, oblige all of us to learn a

considerable portion of a new alphabet. Let any one who feels this objection make the attempt, for only two hours, to read a well printed phonotypic book, and the objection will disappear. When the art of writing was first introduced among the Anglo-Saxons, the art of deciphering it was well called *reading*, that is *guessing*. Reading English is a sort of guessing at the meaning of hieroglyphical symbols; and so admirably are we all trained to the art by learning to read, that any one will find it surprisingly easy to guess at the power of all the newly introduced letters of the phonotypic alphabet, without looking into a *First Book* for them. This statement, which I believe is literally true of the small letters, may, perhaps, admit of an exception in regard to the capitals, when found in a line by themselves. The new letters are carefully selected, as has been already stated, to represent those sounds which least frequently occur; and in assigning them characters, forms have in most instances been chosen with which we are already familiar or which resemble the letters whose power they most nearly represent.*

3. A third objection which is urged against the reform is, that by changing the spelling we are in danger of losing sight of the derivation of a word, and thus of losing one clew to its meaning. Let Dr. Franklin answer this objection, as it was made to him originally by a correspondent.† “Now as to the inconveniences you mention; the first is, ‘that all our etymologies would be lost, consequently we could not ascertain the meaning of many words.’ Etymologies are *at present* very uncertain, but such as they are, the old books would still preserve them, and etymologists would there find them. Words in the course of time change their meanings, as well as their spelling and pronunciation; and we do not look to etymologies for their present meanings. If I should call a man a knave and a villain, he would hardly be satisfied with my telling him that one of the words originally signified only

* The sound of *ee* in feet is represented by a letter which is nearly the italic *i*; *a* in date and *a* in psalm are represented by common forms of our written *e* and *a*; *au* in caught by *e*; *u* in cur, by *u*, *u* lengthened, the sign proposed by Dr. Franklin; *o* in grow, by *o*, and *oo* and *u* in fool and full by *uu*, *u*, two *u*’s combined; *ew* as heard in yew, the name of a tree, by *u*; *oy* in boy, by *o*, *o* with a contracted *y* above it; *ch* in etch by *g*, which it most nearly resembles; *th* in loath, by one form of *t*, *t*; *th* in loathe by *d*, *d* and *t* combined; *sh* in mesh, by a long *s*, *f*; *sh* in measure, by a written *s*, *g*; and *ng* by a sign suggested by Dr. Franklin, *g*, *n* with the last part of *g* combined with it.

† Miss Stevenson.

a lad or servant, and the other an under ploughman or the inhabitant of a village. It is from present usage only the meaning of words is to be determined." To this answer may be added, that phonography will probably accompany phonotypy, and that when words from different languages are written, side by side, in the letters of an alphabet of signs formed on philosophical principles, as those of phonography are, a multitude of derivations will reappear which had been long buried out of sight under the barbarous and fantastic ruins of exploded heterographical spellings.*

4. A fourth objection may be stated, with its answer, in the words of Dr. Franklin. "Your second inconvenience is, 'that the distinction between words of different meaning and similar sound would be destroyed.' That distinction is already destroyed in pronouncing them; and we rely on the sense alone of the sentence to ascertain which of the several words, similar in sound, we intend. If this is sufficient in the rapidity of discourse, it will be much more so in written sentences, which may be read leisurely, and attended to more particularly, in case of difficulty, than we can attend to a past sentence, while the speaker is hurrying us along with new ones."

The existing forms of letters have been retained to represent those sounds which they are found, after an extended numerical analysis, to stand for most frequently in the present alphabet. This fact renders the change in the appearance of phonotypical printing as small as possible, and the difficulty of reading it the least possible; so that any person accustomed to read our language as now printed may at once read phonotypical printing without difficulty, and in an hour or two read it fluently.

The advantages following from the adoption of this reformed alphabet will be very great.

1. It may be acquired in one fifteenth part of the time necessary for the present.†
2. When acquired, it leads the learner to the correct pronunciation of every word which he meets with.

* This fact, very strikingly proved by writing phonographically words in different languages from the same root, gives satisfactory evidence of the truth of a principle admitted by Archdeacon Hare:—"The common pronunciation of a word frequently agrees better than its spelling with its etymology and analogy."

† A writer in *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal* says one twentieth the time. "A child has now, instead of the mere alphabet, to learn nearly all the words of the language, as if they were represented by separate hieroglyphics."

3. It dispenses entirely with the difficult, and to most persons impossible, acquisition of learning to spell. A knowledge of the just sound suggests infallibly the true spelling, and the spelling, with equal certainty, the correct pronunciation.

4. By the omission of silent letters, it renders reading one fifth part more rapid than at present.

5. It will render the acquisition of reading and spelling attainable to millions, to whom it is now unattainable.

6. It will enable a writer to represent any proper name or word of an unknown language in such a manner as to be read by a stranger with precisely the same pronunciation which the writer gives it, inasmuch as variations of sounds are made visible to the eye.

7. It will tend to banish provincialisms,* as each written word suggests its correct pronunciation.†

8. By representing the long and short vowels by different letters, it renders possible the adoption of a few perfectly simple and comprehensive rules of accent, a thing which, up to this time, has been nearly wanting in the language.

* Dr. Franklin used to regret that there was not something like a phonotypic dictionary in existence in his day, as it would, he said, have enabled him, when in England, to avoid the peculiarities of American pronunciation.

† In order that it may have this effect, the books printed phonotypically must give the received pronunciation of the best speakers in England. This is a matter of the greatest importance; and America looks to England for a guidance in this respect which may be safely followed. Peculiarities of speech—provincialisms—are growing up and strengthening in all parts of our country; and although this cannot probably be prevented for the mass of the people, who learn the language only from the ear, it may for the educated part of the community. Phonotypy offers the means of rendering the pronunciation of well educated people nearly uniform, wherever the language is read and spoken. But in order to do this, it must be under the direction of persons who have, all their lives, been accustomed to hear the language spoken in its purity. Peculiarities of particular districts of the mother country are as much to be avoided as provincialisms or Americanisms. This point has not received the attention it deserves from the editors of the *Phonotypic Journal*; and it would not be difficult to point out in their pages instances of pronunciation which would, even in New England, be considered as decidedly inaccurate, and sometimes vulgar.

SPECIMEN OF PHONOTYPIC PRINTING.

1. And it cam tuu pas aftur dîz tipz, dat Ebrahim sat in dî dor ov hiz tent, abst dî goip dæn ov dî sun.

2. And bihold s man, bsd wid ej, cam from dî ws ov dî wildurnes, linip on s staf.

3. And Ebrahim aroz and met him, and sed untuu him, "Turn in, f pre dî, and wof dî fit, and tari el nit, and ds salt ariz urli on dî moro, and go on dî ws."

4. But dî man sed, "Ne, fer f wil abid undur dîs tri."

5. And Ebrahim prest him gretli; so hi turnd, and ds went intuu dî tent, and Ebrahim bect unlevund bred, and ds did it.

6. And hwen Ebrahim se dat dî man blest not God, hi sed untuu him, "f Hwærfor dost ds not wurfip dî most hî God, Cristur ov hev n and urt?"

7. And dî man ansurd and sed, "f duu not wurfip dî God ds spicest ov, nidur duu f cel upon hiz nem; fer f hav mæd tuu miself s god, hwiç abidet elws in min hæss, and providet mi wid el tipz."

8. And Ebrahimz zil woz cindld agenst dî man, and hi aroz and fel upon him, and drov him fort wid bloz intuu dî wildurnes.

9. And at midnit God celd untuu Ebrahim, seip, "Ebrahim, f hwær iz dî strenjur?"

10. And Ebrahim ansurd and sed, "Lerd, hi wud not wurfip dî, nidur wud hi cel upon dî nem; dærfor hav f drivn him st from bifor mi fæs intuu dî wildurnes."

11. And God sed, "f Hav f born wid him dîz hundred ninti and st yîrz, and nurift him, and clodd him, notwitstandip hiz ribelyun agenst mi; and cudst not ds, dat ert dîself s sinur, bærf wid him wun nit?"

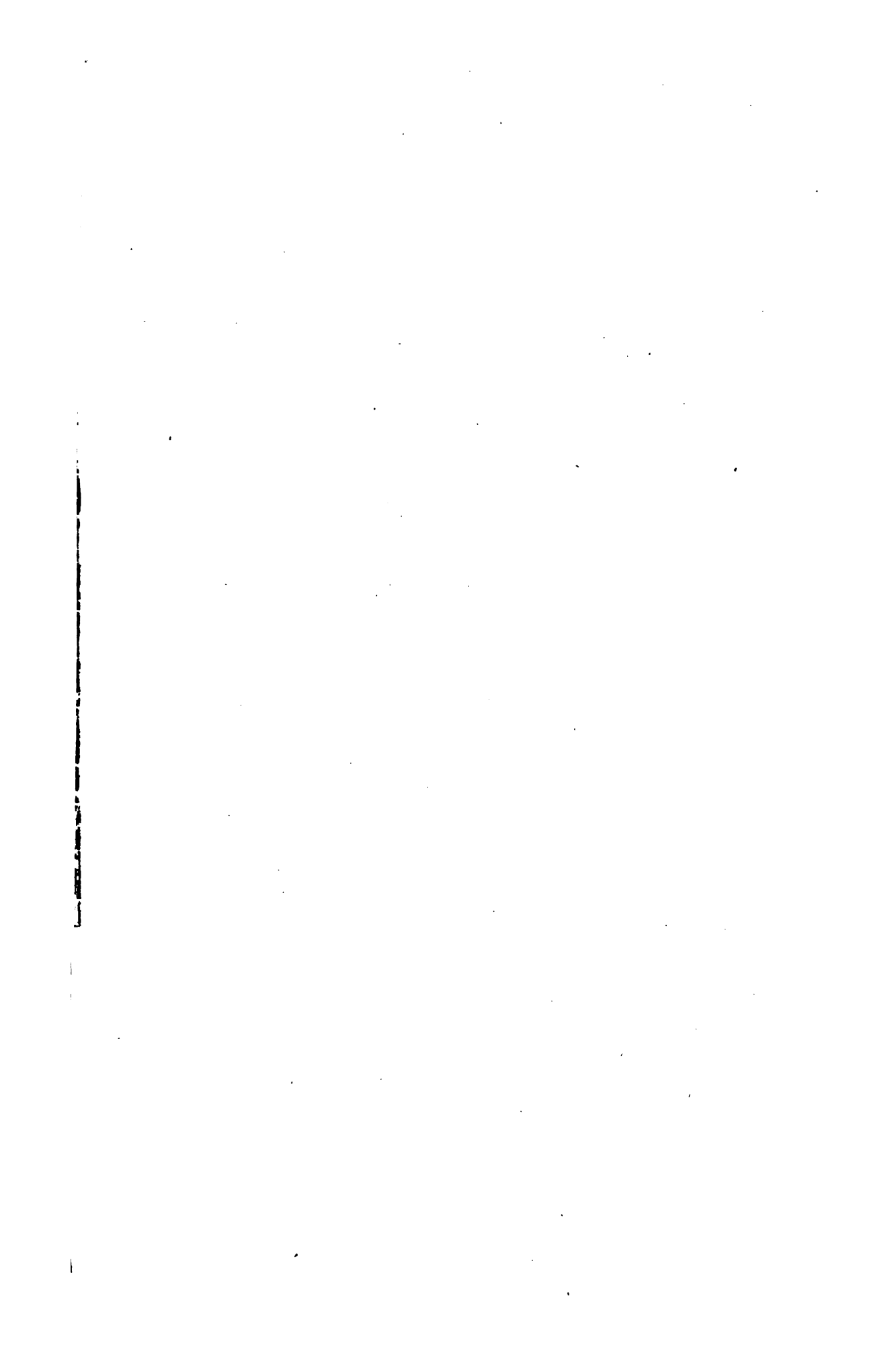
12. And Ebrahim sed, "Let not dî angur ov dî Lerd wacs hot agenst hiz survunt; lo, f hav sind; lo f hav sind; fergiv mi, f pre dî."

13. And Ebrahim aroz, and went fort intuu dî wildurnes, and set dilijuntli fer dî man, and fænd him, and riturnd wid him tuu dî tent; and hwen hi had entrited him cindli, hi sent him awæ on dî moro wid gifts.

14. And God spæc agen untuu Ebrahim, seip, "Fer dîs dî sin fal dî sid bi afflieted for hundrud yîrz in s strenj land;

15. "But fer dî ripentuns wil f dilivur dem; and ds fal cam fort wid psur, and wid gladnes ov hart, and wid muç substuns."

It iz evidunt dat dîs divursiti (ov orientul langweijiz) iz s matiriul obstacul tuu dî comyunicæfun ov mindz, and consicwentli tuu dî difyugun ov nolej, and dî progres ov sivilizæfun; biæidz, it egzists widst eni rizunubl motiv; fer if, æz iz dî fact, dî mecunizm ov spig iz dî sam fer el dîz nsfunz, hwot yus er rizun iz dær fer reprizentip it bi suç difurunt sistemz? Hwot an imens advantej it wud bi fer mancind if el dî individyualz ov difurunt nsfunz cud comyunicet wid iq udur in dî sam langweij. Ns dî furst step tordz dîs elivsted æm iz tuu hav wun and dî sam alfabet.—Volni.





3 2044 055 065 247

This book should be returned to the Library on or before the last date stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred by retaining it beyond the specified time.

Please return promptly.

